Public money is perhaps the quintessential currency of influence for politicians and public servants inside government. It shapes how they undertake the nation’s business and it impacts on the standards of living in the nation. *The Politics of Public Money* by David A. Good examines the extent to which influence by players in the budgetary process is shifting from a bilateral relationship between departmental spenders and central guardians to a more complex multilateral relationship involving spenders and central guardians, as well as priority setters and financial watchdogs.

*The Politics of Public Money* analyzes the shifting influence of budgetary politics in Ottawa, from an ‘old village’ conditioned by old norms of behaviour to a ‘new town’ that brings with it new ideas about how much public money should be spent, where it should be spent, and how it should be managed. The book sheds new light on the role of insiders in influencing our government’s spending and explores the interactions among budget players and, perhaps the most central of all, the relationship between Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Peter Aucoin, Eric Dennis Memorial Professor of Government and Political Science, and Professor of Public Administration, Dalhousie University writes: 
‘This is a superb book that is testimony to David A. Good’s status as one of Canada’s first-rate scholar-practitioners. It blends theory, empirical analysis, and sound insight with clarity and coherence... an essential text for anyone with a serious interest in governance and public management.’

Allen Schick, Professor, School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, and Visiting Fellow at The Brookings Institution writes: 
‘David Good’s lucid study of budgetary politics in Canada provides an analytical framework for examining the ongoing clash between spenders and guardians in all countries... a political template for assessing the effectiveness of budget reforms and a road map for exploring what has to be done to turn chronic deficits into robust surpluses. The book is highly relevant for courses on political institutions, public finance, and public management.’

David Zussman, Jarislowsky Chair in Public Sector Management, University of Ottawa, observes:
‘This is a first-class publication written by someone who has spent a large part of his career studying and thinking about the topic. As both an academic and senior public servant, David A. Good has provided us with some fascinating insights into the politics and management of public money. What is especially valuable is his appreciation of how the roles of spenders and guardians have changed over the past twenty-five years as they have adjusted to the new fiscal realities of budgeting in a time of surpluses.’
Howard A. Doughty, Book Reviews Editor, The Innovation Journal, writes:
‘What David A. Good does best is to bring the public financial and policy process together in a way that will make governmental systems transparent. This is not an exercise that will be easily followed by political or administrative amateurs, for David Good does not “talk down” to his audience; it is, however, a worthwhile endeavor for serious students and practitioners of public administration. As such, it deserves the highest praise.’

Janice MacKinnon, Professor of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan, observes in Canadian Public Administration:
‘an important addition to our understanding of public finance and to our knowledge of how the federal government operates in practice. It is a very worthwhile book that should be widely read.’

Lewis Hawke of the World Bank writes in the Australian Journal of Public Administration:
‘... a surprisingly good read for a book on budget practices. I wish someone would write a book about budgeting in Australia like this one. If offers a fresh perspective on how budgeting actually works and raises some uncomfortable questions about the way things operate at the centre’.

Gabriel Seklay, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Public Administration of Canada writes:
‘a must read for anyone interested in the budgetary process in Canada and also for those who want to understand how to impact that process.’

Douglas Brown of St. Francis Xavier University notes in Canadian Public Policy:
‘... essential reading for public servants and politicians at all levels who seek to be budget players ...’

Enid Slack, Director of the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, University of Toronto, observes in the Literary Review of Canada:
‘For Ottawa insiders, it will probably be a fascinating read to see where they fit in the decision-making process....’

The Politics of Public Money is included in 2007/2008 Books That Matter – ‘books on the cutting edge of academic publishing’. It is part of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada Series in Public Management and Governance. David Good is a Professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria and a former federal assistant deputy minister.

The book, in its second printing, is available at these local book stores: Nicolas Hoare, Smiths, Munros, UVic Bookstore and can be ordered by:
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